

MINUTES OF A MEETING

Regional Food and Agriculture Task Force

Wednesday May 2, 2018

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Meeting Room 107 – Capital Regional District 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

ATTENDEES:

Bernadette Greene

Director Williams

Erich Nahser-Ringer

Fiona Deveraux

Gerard Leblanc

Linda Geggie

Virginie Lavallee-Picard

CRD STAFF: Jeff Weightman, Kaeley Jeffery, Signe Bagh

REGRETS: Bob Maxwell, Rob Buchan, Robin Tunnicliffe, Rudi Wallace, Terry Michell, Jane Evans

FACILITATION

The meeting was facilitated by Virginie Lavallee-Picard, calling it to order at 1:08 pm.

WELCOME

CRD staff Jeff Weightman and Director Williams welcomed participants.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2017 MINUTES

The minutes were approved

1. UPDATES ON OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on RFFLT feasibility Study Contract

The contract was awarded to Upland Agricultural Consulting Ltd., a consulting group specializing in farm and food system business planning, feasibility assessments, agricultural economics, with local knowledge of South Vancouver Island food and its agriculture systems, First Nations food system planning and organizational development.

b. Update on ALR/ALC Recommendations Report

The report was sent to the board and accepted and sent to the ministry and positively received.

c. Update on CRD Board Priorities – agricultural infrastructure needs/abattoir – deferred

Due to currently being addressed elsewhere this initiative is currently deferred.

d. Wildlife Management Update

Geese: There are activities being undertaken in the Saanich Peninsula that are currently successfully addressing this problem.

Deer: There have not been many complaints about deer recently. Hunting activities seem to be managing the numbers.

e. Drainage

CRD Environmental Protection staff are currently meeting with Central Saanich engineering and public works staff.

Central Saanich noted they are considering bringing Maber Flats online as an available parcel potentially for the Land Trust or community farming potentially by next season. This is well supported by council.

f. CSA Tax Incentive Workshop for employers and farmers

There is currently not a lot of support for this initiative. It has been difficult to gather support from local businesses for the box program as well as challenges securing a location to host the informational event as there is not a budget for this expense and the location would require a liquor license for Hoyne to participate as intended.

2. LAND ACCESS FEASIBILITY STUDY CONTRACT – IONE SMITH

a. Introduce Ione and team

Consultants Ione, Greg and Louise provided brief introductions about themselves and their backgrounds.

b. Overview of the project

Ione provided an overview of the project and discussed involvement with the Task Force. She noted it is important to consider different types of models that could be advantageous to our needs as opposed to jumping to the conclusion that a Farm Land Trust is the best option. There are ~10 different types of land access programs that could be suitable and she would like Task Force feedback on 2-3 that may be most beneficial to be used within the region.

She requested the Task Force provide information on potential local stakeholders and partners and Sooke Farmland Trust, Sooke Region Food CHI Society Engineering divisions for municipalities, Lifecycles, First Nations groups, Victoria Urban Food Table, and the UVic Geography department, Road Runner, Medrona and Bergoine Farms were suggested.

c. Comments/Questions for Consulting Team (RFATF)

lone answered questions from the Task Force about the project. Discussion ensued around public concerns about tax implications for land donors/donees, how First Nations Groups fit in, fairness and equity, fair land license rates (currently there are none), benefiter selection, the City of Victoria's \$10M Smart City Grant.

d. Next Steps/Timeline

The anticipated project timeline is:

1. Project commencement and file review – Completed

2. Situational analysis and first meeting with Task Force - May 2 2018

Research and engagement

- Stakeholder Scan
- Stakeholder interviews (Task Force Involvement)

3. Draft Feasibility and Business case – Initial Draft to Task Force on May 18 2018

Task Force Feedback deadline – June 1 2018

Presentation to Task Force: June 18 2018

Revise the Draft Feasibility Study and Business case – July 23 2018

4. Final Feasibility Study and Business Case

Presentation to the Planning and Protective Services Committee – September 26 2018

Final Feasibility Study and Business Case – October 31 2018

2. Membership changes

Due to retirement, temporary work assignment and non-response of 3 Task Force members, some membership changes will have to be made to the Task Force.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will occur following receipt of the draft Feasibility and Business Case report which is anticipated to be completed May 18.